



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 06 March 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Las Vegas Business Press reports that according to an indictment filed by the U.S. Attorney's office, four Las Vegas casinos were used as a conduit for Chinese racketeers to embezzle funds into the U.S. (See item [19](#))
- The Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff met with the Secretary of Governance of Mexico, Carlos Abascal, in Brownsville, Texas, to sign an Action Plan to combat border violence and improve public safety. (See item [21](#))
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has issued recommendations to expedite the development and availability of safe and effective vaccines needed to protect against seasonal and pandemic influenza. (See item [40](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 03, Reuters* — **OPEC president says world oversupplied with oil.** OPEC President Edmund Daukoru said on Friday, March 3, that the global oil market is oversupplied by about two million barrels per day. "The market is indeed well supplied with crude today," Daukoru said ahead of the March 8 meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

(OPEC). Daukoru's view that the global market has plenty of crude oil differed with that of the U.S. which believes the market needs more oil. U.S. inventories of gasoline, which account for 40 percent of America's daily oil demand, are the highest since June 1999 and Daukoru has said those big stocks will be a factor at the OPEC meeting on March 8. Separately, Daukoru dismissed as "just talk" threats by militants in his country against Nigeria's oil infrastructure. Nigeria is the world's eight largest oil exporter. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta this week released six of nine foreign oil workers being held as hostages, but said it will concentrate its efforts on "one huge crippling blow to the Nigerian oil industry." Daukoru said, "We're not panicked."

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20060303/bs_nm/energy_opec_oil_dc_3

2. *March 03, Associated Press* — **Propane shortage hits Hawaii.** A statewide shortage of propane supplies has caused Governor Linda Lingle to urge the public not to panic and overstock propane supplies. Hawaii's Chevron refinery at Campbell Industrial Park was unexpectedly shut down Friday, March 3, due to operational difficulties with its fluid catalytic cracker, the unit that produces propane. The Gas Company will ration supplies to all islands to avoid complete cut-offs to any area. The shortage does not affect natural gas that is fed into homes and businesses on Ohau but does affect propane sold in cylinders, tanks or by pipeline. The state's other two refineries will continue to produce propane, but officials say that may not be enough to meet the demand. The Gas Company says a new propane shipment will not arrive until Monday, March 20th.

Source: <http://www.kpua.net/news.php?id=7641>

3. *March 03, Associated Press* — **Rifle stolen from St. Lucie Nuclear Plant.** Florida Power and Light (FPL) says a semiautomatic rifle and a thermal rifle sight were stolen from the company's St. Lucie Nuclear Plant. The plant's head of security told police that a supervisor noticed the rifle and the accessory missing Tuesday, February 21. Authorities have no suspects.

Source: http://www.wpmi.com/news/state/story.aspx?content_id=43C98735-9321-4537-A2E6-FE1DCA9AC7C4

4. *March 02, Federal Computer Week* — **Nuclear Regulatory Commission Inspector General: Improve system for tracking radioactive material.** A proposed Web-based national system to track licensed radioactive material may not be robust enough to account for all the risks the material poses, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) inspector general (IG). The National Source Tracking System (NSTS) may be inadequate because the supporting regulatory analysis, which provides the framework for the system, is based on unreliable data from an interim database the agency established, according to the IG's report. "As a result, NRC may not account for all byproduct material that represents a risk to the common defense and security and public health and safety," the report states. "Such risks could result in economic, psychological and physical harm to the United States and the public." The proposed system would enhance the agency's data on radioactive material used in the industrial, medical and research sectors. The agency administers 4,500 material licenses while 33 states, which have NRC authority to regulate certain materials, administer 17,300 licenses. Under current regulations, licensees only need to give the agency the types and quantities of nuclear material that they are supposed to possess, not what they actually have, according to the report.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article92484-03-02-06-Web&RSS=yes>

5. *March 02, Reuters* — **Crude spills from Alaska's Prudhoe Bay pipeline.** A leak from a feeder line carrying North Slope crude oil to the trans-Alaska pipeline caused a spill and triggered a shutdown of some activities at the biggest U.S. oil field on Thursday, March 2. The amount spilled is unknown. The spill from the pipeline at the western part of the Prudhoe Bay oil field was discovered early Thursday morning by field operator BP Exploration (Alaska). The affected line runs between a gathering center, which holds the crude oil produced from various drill sites, and the intake station of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline, said the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. The gathering center has been shut down and the affected pipeline isolated, state officials said, and BP also shut the approximately 12 well pads that feed to the pipeline. The gathering center, a facility that separates the crude oil, natural gas and water that is pumped out of wells, normally handles about 100,000 barrels of oil daily, Daren Beaudou, spokesman for BP Exploration (Alaska) said. BP said the spill has curtailed production, but Beaudou did not know the impact it would have on shipments out of Prudhoe Bay, where daily production averaged 470,000 barrels in February.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20060302/sc_nm/energy_alaska_spill_dc_2
6. *March 02, Associated Press* — **United Nations inspector lauds India-U.S. nuke deal.** The United Nations nuclear chief endorsed the atomic energy agreement between the U.S. and India Thursday, March 2, calling it "an important step towards satisfying India's growing need for energy." Under the agreement, the U.S. would share nuclear reactors, fuel, and expertise with energy-starved India in exchange for India's acceptance of international safeguards. "It would be a milestone, timely for ongoing efforts to consolidate the nonproliferation regime, combat nuclear terrorism and strengthen nuclear safety," said International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Mohamed ElBaradei. India agreed to separate its tightly entwined nuclear industry — declaring 14 reactors as commercial facilities and eight as military — and to open the civilian side to international inspections for the first time. The deal is pending approval by the U.S. Congress.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20060303/ap_on_re_as/un_india_nuclear_1
7. *March 02, Reuters* — **Detained al Qaeda men planned Jordan power plant attack.** A group of al Qaeda militants arrested by Jordanian authorities had planned to blow up a major power plant that feeds the whole country, security sources said on Thursday, March 2. Jordan announced on Wednesday it had foiled an al Qaeda "terrorist plot" and arrested two Iraqis and a Libyan who were plotting to carry out a suicide attack against a vital civilian installation. Officials said the arrests took place last week. Two more Iraqis and a Saudi militant were believed to have fled to neighboring Syria. Officials said the attack, if carried out, would have been the deadliest in a series of recent strikes targeting Jordan. "There have been smaller plots but this is by far the most serious in the last few months given the number of people involved, the weapons confiscated and (nature) of the target," government spokesperson Naser Joudeh said. Officials said the nine pounds of explosives matched those found with an Iraqi woman who failed to detonate her bomb at one of three Amman hotels. Jordanian authorities say they have foiled many militant attacks against well-guarded embassies and tourist sites, but admit they now face unprecedented challenges.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20060302/ts_nm/security_jordan_qaeda_dc_1

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

8. *March 04, Record Net (CA)* — **Chemical spill snarls highway traffic in California.** A chemical spill on Highway-12 near Interstate-5 in Flag City, CA, caused traffic delays and road closure for nearly four hours Friday, March 3. A tanker truck was carrying about 45,000 pounds of hydrochloric acid and was about to head onto southbound I-5 when about 25 gallons of the chemical spilled onto the roadway after the driver made a turn.
Source: <http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060304/NEWS01/603040344/1001>
9. *March 04, Anderson Independent-Mail (SC)* — **Acid spill in South Carolina prompts highway closure.** A muriatic acid fire on Highway-123 at the Highway-178 exit in Liberty, SC, closed down the Upstate thoroughfare Friday night, March 3. According to early reports, a U-Haul trailer was found on the Liberty side of the Highway-178 exit. Barrels of muriatic acid were inside the trailer, and somehow the trailer caught fire, Pickens County Sheriff's Office personnel said.
Source: <http://www.goupstate.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060304/NEWS/603040306/1051/NEWS01>
10. *March 04, Mercury News (CA)* — **Odd odor at tech plant cause 12 to fall ill; evacuation ordered.** About a dozen people, including two firefighters, were treated at hospitals Friday, March 3, after being overcome by a mysterious odor at a North San Jose, CA, high-tech manufacturing plant. Hazmat crews were unable to determine the cause of the smell that forced the evacuation and temporary closing of JDS Uniphase's Rose Orchard Way facility.
Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/local/140172_11.htm
11. *March 03, News 10 Now (NY)* — **Propane truck rollover causes evacuations.** The village of Pulaski, NY, looked like a ghost town Friday morning, March 3, after a voluntary evacuation order was issued for a half mile radius around overturned truck. Authorities were worried the truck filled with 2,000 gallons of propane would leak. There was some minor leaking of diesel fuel, but officials took every precaution as they worked to remove the overturned truck full of propane. At the Pulaski Elementary School, along with the high school, warming shelters were set up for those who were voluntarily evacuated.
Source: http://www.news10now.com/content/all_news/?ArID=61131&SecID=83

[[Return to top](#)]

Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *March 02, Air Force Link* — **Air Force releases 2006 posture statement.** The Air Force released its "posture statement" detailing the service's missions and priorities over the next year. The posture statement outlines that the Air Force is looking to use its oldest aircraft for as long as it can while newer weapon systems are brought online. To extend the use of platforms such as the C-5 Galaxy for airlift operations, certain upgrades are essential. The Air Force is also looking to bring its newest aircraft to the forefront of the Air Force mission, such as the F-22A Raptor, unmanned aerial vehicles and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance

aircraft. The posture statement also illustrates the importance of space as part of the Air Force mission.

Air Force Posture Statement: <http://www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-060302-001.pdf>

Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123016812>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

13. *March 06, Bar Harbor Times (ME)* — **Bank info was swiped; customers lose \$140,000 to scam.** Customers of The First Bank were victims of an estimated \$140,000 in theft. The information stolen included e-mail, name, address, date of birth, Social Security number, email address, and First Online Banking login data. Tony McKim of The First said that less than five percent of the bank's customers — approximately 3,400 out of 70,000 — potentially had their data compromised. Using stolen email addresses, the data thieves sent bank customers "phishing" emails that requested more personal and banking information claiming to be sent by the bank. Such losses subsequently were reimbursed by the bank, which has filed an insurance claim. Using fake debit cards, the thieves stole money at ATM machines in Florida, Virginia, Illinois, Puerto Rico, and Canada. The bank has notified the FBI and also is working with the Secret Service. Daniel R. Daigneault of the bank said, "We know in talking with them that this is part of a larger, international crime spree...We actually have pictures of the individuals taking money out of the ATMs."

Source: http://www.courierpub.com/articles/2006/03/03/barharbortimes/local_news/n1banscam.txt

14. *March 06, Denver Post (CO)* — **ID theft concerns at college in Colorado.** A laptop computer containing the names and Social Security numbers of 93,000 people who attended Metropolitan State College in Colorado was stolen from an employee's home, leaving students vulnerable to identity theft. Students who attended the college from the 1996 fall semester through the 2005 summer semester could be at risk, campus officials said. The laptop was stolen from the home of an admissions office employee on Saturday, February 25. He was authorized to have the data for a grant he was working on for the school. None of the information that was on the laptop appears to have been used for the purpose of identity theft, so far. Campus officials don't think the person who stole the computer knew it contained the information.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/ci_3562282?source=rss

15. *March 04, KPTV FOX 12 (OR)* — **Mortgage company targeted by thieves.** A security breach occurred after someone broke into a Lake Oswego, OR, mortgage home loan office and stole a computer with customers' personal information. First Horizon home loan sent out more than 2,400 letters to customers telling them about the theft. The theft occurred on Monday, January 30, and the company sent out a letter informing customers of the theft on Friday, February 24. First Horizon officials say the delay in notifying customers was so they could be sure they sent out accurate information to the correct households. A First Horizon official says the computer held personal information that may or may not have been encrypted.

Source: <http://www.kptv.com/Global/story.asp?S=4584265>

16. *March 04, Associated Press* — **University computer system hacked by outsider.** A Georgetown University computer server with personal information about tens of thousands of Washington, DC residents has been hacked by an outsider. The university says a researcher maintained the information for the district Office on Aging. It included names and Social Security numbers for many people. The U.S. Secret Service is investigating. The information on approximately 41,000 people might have been stolen.
Source: <http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=25&sid=716329>
17. *March 04, Associated Press* — **Ring allegedly steals Social Security numbers from Ohio county Website, spends about \$500,000.** Eight people are accused of running an identity theft ring that got Social Security numbers and other personal data from the Hamilton County clerk of court Website, other Internet sites, and stolen mail, and used the information to ring up about a half-million dollars in spending. The indictment outlines 103 instances of counterfeit checks or fraudulent credit transactions at stores in Ohio, Michigan, and Kentucky. The suspects used the information to create identification documents with a victim's name but bearing the picture of a suspect; print counterfeit checks; open credit accounts; and access the victims' credit accounts, authorities said. Fraudulent purchases were made at such stores as Kohl's, Sears, and Best Buy. American Express and Chase Bank were among the financial institutions that were victims.
Source: http://www.montereyherald.com/mld/ohio/news/14016780.htm?source=rss&channel=ohio_news
18. *March 03, Associated Press* — **Iowa family indicted in bank fraud scheme.** A Des Moines family is charged in a bank scam that federal prosecutors say bilked area banks and businesses out of \$300,000. Irish and Nathaniel Rife and the son, Jamar Jackson, were indicted on 15 federal charges that include conspiracy, bank fraud, and mail fraud. The family recruited friends, relatives, and co-workers to open bank accounts in each others' names. The bank accounts were then used to write checks for merchandise or to deposit money in other bogus accounts to keep the scheme going. Authorities say the scam was in business since 2002 and involved about 30 people.
Source: <http://www.whotv.com/Global/story.asp?S=4581888>
19. *March 01, Las Vegas Business Press (NV)* — **Resorts used to launder money, says government.** Four Las Vegas casinos were used as a conduit for Chinese racketeers to embezzle funds into the U.S., according to an indictment filed by the U.S. Attorney's office. Four of the alleged embezzlers were arraigned two weeks ago. The fifth, Kwong Wa Po, is currently at large. In the third count of the indictment, unsealed January 31, the government charged that members of the alleged criminal enterprise misappropriated \$485 million from the Bank of China and laundered it through Las Vegas at Paris Las Vegas Casino Resort, Treasure Island, The Rio Suite Hotel & Casino's Hong Kong office, and Caesars Palace. Jerry Markling of the Nevada Gaming Control Board said he was surprised to hear of the indictments. He said, "Sometimes these federal indictments, they don't even involve us." Markling noted that casinos on the whole are "fairly well cognizant" of potentially suspicious activity, because they have internal-review committees that monitor unusual transactions. Purchases of chips exceeding \$2,500 have to be documented, according to Markling, and rapid cashing in and out of chips — a potential means of money laundering — would be noted. Multiple transactions that add up to more than \$10,000 within 24 hours must also be reported.

[[Return to top](#)]

Transportation and Border Security Sector

20. *March 03, Associated Press* — **Northwest Airlines pilots reach pay-cut deals.** Pilots reached a tentative pay-cut deal with Northwest Airlines on Friday, February 3, a major step toward ending a showdown that put the bankrupt airline's future in doubt. The Northwest branch of the Air Line Pilots Association announced the agreement but didn't release details. The nation's fourth-largest airline said it got the \$358 million in savings it sought. Pilots were the last Northwest union without a deal. If its unions all approve their agreements, Northwest will have reduced its labor costs by \$1.4 billion since late 2004, when pilots first took a 15 percent pay cut. Northwest said it has also cut wages of salaried and management employees twice. It said it's trying to cut a total of \$2.5 billion in annual costs "in order to return the company to profitability on a sustained basis."

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/destinations/2006-03-03-north-west-deal_x.htm

21. *March 03, Department of Homeland Security* — **United States and Mexico commit to combat border violence.** In accordance with the Security and Prosperity Partnership, the Secretary of Governance of Mexico, Carlos Abascal, and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff met in Brownsville, TX, to sign an Action Plan to combat border violence and improve public safety. The commitment between the two nations will strengthen procedures between federal law enforcement agencies on both sides of the border to respond to different scenarios ranging from accidental crossings to incidents of violence, or other situations that present risks to those who live, work, or travel at our common border. To help prevent violent incidents, Secretary Abascal, Secretary Chertoff, and Eduardo Medina-Mora, Mexican Secretary of Public Safety, have endorsed a multi-step plan for bi-national coordination during emergency situations. The plan lays out a commitment to ensure immediate communications and information sharing between responsible authorities during emergency situations that may have cross border implications. Aside from the Action Plan, DHS continues to partner with the Government of Mexico in information sharing and coordinated law enforcement efforts to reduce the increasing number of human smugglers operating along the southwest border and to uncover cross-border tunnels along the U.S.-Mexico border in California and Arizona.

Action Plan: http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press_release/press_re lease_0874.xml

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press_release/press_re lease_0873.xml

22. *March 03, Associated Press* — **Chicago may privatize Midway Airport.** Chicago Mayor Richard Daley's administration is considering whether to privatize Midway International Airport, a city official said. Dana Levenson, the city's chief financial officer, said the move is a possibility as the city looks for ways to raise cash without increasing taxes. Levenson said either all or part of Midway could eventually be leased to a private operator. It could take years to complete a transaction to privatize the airport, and standards for a private operator and assessing the deal's value would take time, he said. A proposal in the Legislature would make such a deal possible by maintaining Midway's property tax-exempt status, said bill sponsor Senator Don Harmon, D-Oak Park. The Senate passed bill passed Thursday, March 2, it still

needs House approval.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/1110AP_Midway_Airport_Privatization.html

23. *March 03, Associated Press* — **Homeless removed from airports.** Cleveland airport officials have tolerated the presence of roughly 20 people who sleep on cushioned seats in the ticketing and baggage claim areas on any given winter night. But now they're joining other airports around the country in looking for ways to help relocate homeless people because of concerns about security. Although the homeless haven't caused problems, Fred Szabo, the airport's commissioner, said that because of the September 11 terrorist attacks, airport officials need to make sure that anyone at the airport has a legitimate reason to be there. Cleveland Hopkins Airport has joined LaGuardia Airport and John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York in inviting outreach workers to the airport to assist the homeless with the goal of relocating them. Chicago O'Hare International Airport takes a strict approach, enforcing an ordinance that requires a person to have a ticket to be in the airport after 1 a.m.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2006-03-03-homeless-airports_x.htm

24. *March 03, New York Times* — **Audit: Metropolitan Transportation Authority is a year behind on security.** The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has fallen more than a year behind its own schedule to protect its trains, buses, stations, bridges, and tunnels from terrorist attacks with structural upgrades and advanced electronic equipment, according to a report released on Thursday, March 2, by the New York state comptroller. The analysis, which focused on a program of capital improvements budgeted at \$591 million by the authority's board after the 9/11 attack, found that the authority has finished only one of five high-priority projects. Work on what the authority has called Phase 1 of the security enhancements, including 11 more projects scheduled for completion by mid-2008, will not be completed until November 2009, said the comptroller, Alan G. Hevesi. At a news conference, Hevesi attributed the delays to the technical challenges of retrofitting a sprawling and antiquated transportation system with new electronics. The report came amid mounting criticism of the authority's security plans, which are also over budget. Hevesi's staff praised several measures taken by the authority, including the expansion of its own police force, the increased use of bomb-detection dogs, and the creation of an internal security task force that shares intelligence with 350 transit and security agencies around the world.

Office of the Comptroller (report to be posted): <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/audits/index.htm>

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/03/nyregion/03mta.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

Agriculture Sector

25. *March 04, Capital Times (WI)* — **Farm deer test positive for chronic wasting disease.** The vast majority of white-tailed deer killed on a Portage, WI, farm earlier this year tested positive

for chronic wasting disease (CWD). The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection reported Friday, March 3, that 60 of the 76 deer tested positive for the disease. The deer were killed on January 17 by shooters from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory screened tissue samples, and the results were confirmed by the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory. The farm is the site of most of the discovered cases of the disease in Wisconsin. The results bring to 82 the number of animals that tested positive for the disease that property. CWD has also been found in 12 white-tailed deer and one elk on six other Wisconsin farms. CWD information: <http://www.cwd-info.org/>
Source: <http://www.madison.com/tct/news/index.php?ntid=75075&ntpid=4>

26. *March 04, Associated Press* — Cattle identification program expected to quadruple.

Researchers in Dickinson are hoping to outfit 20,000 cattle in North Dakota with electronic identification tags this year, quadrupling the number tagged two years ago. The research is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's plan to tag animals so they can be tracked to prevent the rapid spread of disease. The group tagged about 5,000 cattle in 2004 for the Calf AID pilot project. The program uses low-frequency electronic ear tags to identify animals. Only about 40 percent of the cattle from the 26 herds kept their tags over their lifetime. Most were cut out at feedlots before slaughter. Some simply fell off. Researcher Mick Riesinger said cattle can be moved up to a dozen times before slaughter. He said many of the tags were cut off as the cattle were transferred from feedlot to feedlot. At present, the tags give only basic information of the origin of the animal. Researchers said the information could be expanded in the future to track cattle using Global Positioning System technology.

Source: <http://www.grandforks.com/mld/grandforks/news/14018709.htm>

27. *March 03, Stop Soybean Rust News* — Three new soybean rust finds. Asian soybean rust was reported found in three more southeastern U.S. counties, as soybean pathologists continue to scout the region for the disease on kudzu. Thursday, March 2, Bob Kemeraite of the University of Georgia found rust growing on young and old kudzu tissue living around an abandoned house in downtown Colquitt, GA, in Miller County. This is the first find in that county this year, and the northernmost find in the state so far this year. Wednesday, March 1, Alabama officials reported that on February 28, soybean rust was detected on kudzu in Abbeville in Henry County and in Dothan in Houston County. Both are in the southeastern corner of the state. The kudzu in Abbeville was found growing on a wall of a gas station. Rust was observed on old-growth leaves which were removed. There were new kudzu shoots emerging from the vine that had no visible symptoms of rust. The kudzu in Dothan was growing in a tree next to a bridge over railroad tracks in the downtown area. Rust was observed on old-growth leaves. The kudzu had some new growth, but no symptoms of rust were visible on the young tissue.

Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=694>

28. *March 03, Illinois Farm Bureau* — Farmers warned about tank valve tampering.

Anhydrous ammonia thieves are tampering with nurse tank “farmer valves” and creating a dangerous situation for unsuspecting farmers, said Mark Millburg, safety and compliance specialist with LincolnLand FS Inc. Millburg, also LincolnLand’s Morgan County manager, described the issue during a demonstration at the Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference last week in Springfield, IL. “A lot of guys won’t even notice it’s (the valve) gone. Then when they open the valve, it will spray them in the face,” Millburg said. Several farmers who saw the

demonstration said it was the first they had heard about the potential danger.

Source: <http://www.ilfb.org/viewdocument.asp?did=11336&r=0.4694025>

29. *March 03, Reuters* — **Sweden confirms first mad cow case.** Swedish authorities said on Friday, March 3, that tests had confirmed its first case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease, from a farm in the center of the country. A preliminary test on Tuesday, February 28, had indicated the brain wasting disease, which ravaged European cattle herds, in a 12-year old cow at a farm in Vastmanland in central Sweden. The farm has been isolated since the case was discovered and all animals at risk will be destroyed.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L03728610.htm>

[[Return to top](#)]

Food Sector

30. *March 02, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **U.S. agrees to import mangoes from India.** "The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative Thursday, March 2, announced that the U.S. and India have resolved long-standing issues regarding potential pests and diseases and agreed on a framework outlining fundamental requirements for bilateral trade of commodities treated by irradiation. This provides a road map for importation of mangoes into the U.S. "The Agreement, signed by the USDA and the Indian Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, sets in motion bilateral procedures that should permit mangoes to be sold in U.S. markets in as few as 18 months. This effectively resolves a 17-year trade issue between the two countries."

Source: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentonly=true&contentid=2006/03/0063.xml

[[Return to top](#)]

Water Sector

31. *March 03, Patriot-News (PA)* — **Water utilities told to improve warnings.** The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) has put water companies across the state on notice to implement better procedures for notifying consumers of emergencies. The PUC released the findings of its investigation into a December 10 incident at Pennsylvania American Water Co.'s Yellow Breeches Water Treatment Plant near New Cumberland. That spill resulted in excessive levels of fluoride concentration in the drinking water for about 34,000 customers in Cumberland and York counties. The commission found that the water company's emergency response plan was obsolete and that phone numbers the company had for contacts were outdated. The full report will be released later. The water company issued a "do not consume" order several hours after the fluoride spill but many customers were not aware of it. The commission requires that companies certify that their physical and cyber emergency response and business continuity plans are current. While Pennsylvania American certified that its plans were in accordance with state requirements, the investigation found that the emergency response plan for the plant where the spill occurred had not been updated since 1993.

Source: <http://www.pennlive.com/news/patriotnews/index.ssf?/base/new>

32. *March 03, Arizona Republic* — **Radioactive water found near Palo Verde.** Arizona Public Service Co. discovered radioactive water near a maze of underground pipes at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station this week and plans more tests to ensure that the tainted water hasn't leaked into the area's water supply. Work crews discovered the tritium-laced water in an underground pipe vault near Palo Verde's Unit 3. Tests confirmed that the water contains more than three times the acceptable amount of tritium. State officials say there is no immediate evidence that the tritium, a byproduct of nuclear power generation and a relatively weak source of radiation, poses any public health concerns. The Phoenix, AZ, based utility on Thursday, March 2, notified the Department of Environmental Quality and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of its discovery. Now, the utility will work with state and federal officials to pinpoint the source of the contaminated water and determine how far it has spread. The Department of Environmental Quality will test soil and water at and near the plant in Wintersburg, about 50 miles west of downtown Phoenix. Aquifers about 70 feet and 200 feet underground supply water for the area.

Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0303paloverde-ON.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

Public Health Sector

33. *March 05, Agence France-Presse* — **Madagascar hit by crippling disease from Reunion.** Madagascan health officials said the island had recorded its first cases of a disabling mosquito-borne disease that has claimed 93 lives on the French Indian Ocean island of Reunion. "There have been sporadic cases of chikungunya," said Health Minister Jean-Louis Robinson, without providing precise figures. Chikungunya outbreaks have sparked deep concerns in the French overseas territory of Reunion, 500 miles east of Madagascar, where 186,000 out of the island's population of 777,000 have fallen sick.

Chikungunya information: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/msds-ftss/msds172e.html>

Source: <http://www.todayonline.com/articles/104690.asp>

34. *March 05, Reuters* — **Over 200 Caribbean cruise ship passengers take ill.** More than 200 passengers on a Royal Caribbean cruise ship and several crew members took ill with a stomach virus during a weeklong cruise, the company said on Saturday, March 4. Royal Caribbean International said 243 of 3,252 passengers on board the Explorer of the Seas had caught a norovirus, a common cause of infectious gastroenteritis prevalent in hospitals, nursing homes, cruise ships, and other semi-enclosed environments. All those affected were treated. Nineteen of the 1,184 crewmembers also took ill during the voyage. Royal Caribbean said it believed a passenger brought the virus on board.

Source: <http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=domestic>

[News&storyid=2006-03-05T043115Z_01_N04180217_RTRUKOC_0_US-LEISURE-ROYALCARIBBEAN-STOMACHBUG.xml&rpc=22](#)

35. *March 05, Agence France-Presse* — **First case of H5N1 bird flu in Poland.** Poland has its first case of H5N1 the Polish television network TVP3 has reported. It said H5N1 had been

detected in a swan found dead Friday, March 3, in Torun, in northern Poland, saying it had received unofficial confirmation from the head of Poland's veterinary service. The deputy head of the veterinary service Janusz Zwiazek told Agence France–Presse it was "probably the H5N1 virus". TVP3 said a crisis cell had installed a security zone of two miles radius around the spot where the bird was found. Several cases of bird flu have been detected in the past few days in Germany near its border with Poland as well as in neighboring Slovakia.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060305/hl_afp/healthflupoland_060305103004

36. *March 05, Agence France–Presse* — Afghanistan begins polio immunization drive.

Afghanistan, one of only four countries where polio is still endemic, began vaccinating millions of children Sunday, March 5, in what it hoped would be the start of a final push to eradicate the disease. Tens of thousands of health workers and volunteers across the country kicked off a three–day campaign expected to immunize more than 7.2 million children under the age of five against the crippling disease, officials said. The number of polio cases in Afghanistan had steadily declined from 137 in 1997, when the immunization campaign was launched, to just five in 2004, health ministry advisor Abdullah Fahim said. However the number of cases increased to seven last year, although they were localized to Helmand and Uruzgan provinces. The reasons the disease was lingering in these areas included the influx of people from neighboring Pakistan, where polio was also endemic, and violence that had hampered immunization programs in past years, he said.

Global Polio Eradication Initiative: <http://www.polioeradication.org/>

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060305/hl_afp/healthpolioafghanistan_060305111656: ylt=AreSKvhglo8OS9zInKIDGQyJOrgF: ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--

37. *March 04, Associated Press* — Tests show Indonesian boy died of bird flu. A three–year–old boy died of bird flu in central Indonesia, a senior health official said Saturday, March 4, citing local laboratory tests. Blood and swab samples for the child — who died this week in a hospital in Semarang — have been sent to a World Health Organization–sanctioned laboratory in Hong Kong for confirmation, said Hariadi Wibisono. The toddler appeared to have been in contact with sick chickens, though the source of infection was still being investigated, Wibisono said. In Hong Kong a man who died in the southern Chinese province of Guangdong may have had the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu, the government said. The man, who lived in Guangzhou city — just across the border from Hong Kong — developed fever and pneumonia on February 22 and died on March 2, the government statement said. Mainland China has reported 14 human bird flu infections since October, including eight deaths.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/living/health/14014589.htm>

38. *March 03, Agence France–Presse* — Azerbaijan confirms first case of H5N1 bird flu in poultry. Azerbaijan's agriculture minister confirmed the former Soviet nation's first case of H5N1 strain bird flu on a poultry farm. Wild birds had been found to be infected with the H5N1 strain early last month in Azerbaijan, but this was the first case in domestic fowl. Some 500,000 birds have already been killed in the affected area.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060303/hl_afp/healthfluazerbaijan_060303104616: ylt=Au0XN23z8vzHN3JjCxnMMU2JOrgF: ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--

39. *March 03, Reuters* — **Malaysia shuts nursery schools to curb disease.** Malaysia has ordered the closure of nearly 500 kindergarten schools on the island of Borneo after four children died of the hand, foot and mouth viral disease, official news agency Bernama said on Friday, March 3. Sarawak, one of the two eastern Malaysian states on Borneo, has reported four deaths from the disease, the agency said. Health officials have called for 488 schools to be shut for two weeks in an effort to contain the spread of the disease, Health Minister Chua Soi Lek told reporters. Hand, foot and mouth disease is a viral infection common in children and results in fever, mouth sores, and a blistering rash, usually on the hands and feet. Malaysia reported 13 cases of the disease in 2001, in its southern-most state of Johor, bordering Singapore. The previous year four children died of the disease, and an outbreak in 1997 killed 13.
Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KLR201519.htm>

40. *March 02, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **Initiative helps expedite development of seasonal and pandemic flu vaccines.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Thursday, March 2, issued recommendations to aid manufacturers in developing seasonal and pandemic influenza vaccines. FDA's goal is to expedite the development and availability of safe and effective vaccines needed to protect against influenza. In two guidance documents released today, one for seasonal, and the other for pandemic influenza vaccines, the FDA provides manufacturers with clear guidance on developing and submitting clinical data to show safety and effectiveness for new vaccines. For licensed vaccines, they describe the process for changing rapidly from the currently-licensed seasonal vaccine to a new pandemic vaccine by supplementing the existing license. For new vaccines, they describe defined pathways for both traditional and accelerated approval approaches. Accelerated approval allows for evaluation based on biological indicators (e.g., the immune response to the vaccine) likely to demonstrate effectiveness.
Draft Guidance for Industry, Clinical Data Needed to Support the Licensure of Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccines: <http://www.fda.gov/cber/gdlns/trifluvac.pdf>
Draft Guidance for Industry, Clinical Data Needed to Support the Licensure of Pandemic Influenza Vaccines: <http://www.fda.gov/cber/gdlns/panfluvac.pdf>
Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2006/NEW01330.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

Government Sector

41. *February 01, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-178: Electronic Government: Agencies Face Challenges in Implementing New Federal Employee Identification Standard (Report).** Many forms of identification (ID) that federal employees and contractors use to access government-controlled buildings and information systems can be easily forged, stolen, or altered to allow unauthorized access. In an effort to increase the quality and security of federal ID and credentialing practices, the President directed the establishment of a governmentwide standard—Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 201—for secure and reliable forms of ID based on “smart cards” that use integrated circuit chips to store and process data with a variety of external systems across government. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to determine (1) actions that selected federal agencies have taken to implement the new standard and (2) challenges that federal agencies are facing in implementing the standard. GAO recommends that the Director, OMB monitor FIPS 201

implementation progress by, for example, (1) establishing an agency reporting process to fulfill its role of ensuring FIPS 201 compliance and (2) amending or supplementing guidance to provide more complete direction to agencies on how to address implementation challenges. With the exception of OMB, which disagreed with GAO's second recommendation, agency officials generally agreed with the content of this report.

Highlights – <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06178high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-178>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

42. *March 02, Officer* — **National study available on traffic signal preemption.** The National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Highway Administration have released "Traffic Signal Preemption for Emergency Vehicles — A Cross Cutting Study." The Executive Summary states: This cross-cutting study identifies issues associated with emergency vehicle operations and emergency vehicle preemption. This study reports information gathered during a review of publications and site visits to three jurisdictions operating emergency vehicle preemption systems. The purpose of this study is to increase awareness among stakeholders — including police, fire, rescue and emergency medical services (EMS) — about the benefits and costs of emergency vehicle preemption. Emergency vehicle preemption has allowed Fairfax County, VA, for example to reduce its response times. The system permits emergency vehicles along U.S. 1 to pass through high volume intersections more quickly with fewer conflicts, saving 30 to 45 seconds per intersection.

Traffic Signal Preemption for Emergency Vehicles study:

http://www.itsdocs.fhwa.dot.gov/JPODOCS/REPTS_TE//14097.htm

Source: <http://www.officer.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=28990>

43. *March 02, Fleet Owner* — **Rhode Island port communication pilot program under way.** A prototype system designed to connect land-based communication networks to allow government agencies and emergency personnel to share and distribute real-time data throughout Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island is being deployed. The one-year pilot program is called Rhode Island Port Security Wireless Communications Network. The project consists of a wireless broadband network to distribute text, voice, data and video to first responders and local law enforcement in real-time.

Source: http://fleetowner.com/news/rhode_island_ri_port_communication_pilot_030206/

44. *March 02, Cleburne News (AL)* — **Exercise tests readiness in the event of toxic release at Army depot in Alabama.** Calling it "Order from Chaos," local emergency responders joined the Cleburne County Emergency Management Agency Wednesday, March 1, in several exercises to test their preparedness level in the event of a toxic release at Alabama's Anniston Army Depot. The exercises operated on the assumptions that all participating agencies have established emergency plans, that they contain mitigation, response and recovery elements, players would respond in accordance with the existing plans, that a multi-agency response to an emergency or disaster situation would be required and that coordination at the emergency operations center would also be required.

Source: <http://www.cleburnenews.com/news/2006/cn-local-0302-wrangle-6 c02j1448.htm>

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

45. *March 03, U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team* — **US–CERT Technical Cyber Security Alert TA06–062A: Apple Mac products are affected by multiple vulnerabilities.** Apple has released Security Update 2006–001 to correct multiple vulnerabilities affecting Mac OS X, Mac OS X Server, Safari Web browser, and other products. The most serious of these vulnerabilities may allow a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code. Impacts of other vulnerabilities include bypassing security restrictions and denial-of-service. Systems affected: Apple Mac OS X version 10.3.9 (Panther) and version 10.4.5 (Tiger); Apple Mac OS X Server version 10.3.9 and version 10.4.5; Apple Safari Web browser. Previous versions of Mac OS X may also be affected. Refer to Apple Security Update 2006–001 for further information. Solution: Install Apple Security Update 2006–001:
<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=303382>.
This and other updates are available via Apple Update:
<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=106704>.
For additional protection, disable the option to "Open 'safe' files after downloading," as specified in "Securing Your Web Browser":
http://www.us-cert.gov/reading_room/securing_browser/#sgener.al.
Source: <http://www.uscert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA06–062A.html>
46. *March 02, eWeek* — **Hunt intensifies for botnet command and controls.** A group of high-profile security researchers, which includes international representatives from anti-virus vendors, ISPs, educational institutions and dynamic DNS providers, is ramping up efforts to find and disable the command and control infrastructure that powers millions of zombie drone machines, or bots, hijacked by malicious hackers. The idea is to open up a new reporting mechanism for ISPs and IT administrators to report botnet activity, especially the command and control system that remotely sends instructions to botnets. "If that command-and-control is disabled, all the machines in that botnet become useless to the botmaster. It's an important part of dealing with this problem," said Gadi Evron, a botnet hunter who serves in Israel's Ministry of Finance. Over the last year, the group has done its work quietly on closed, invite-only mailing lists. Now, Evron has launched a public, open mailing list to enlist the general public to help report botnet command and control servers. The new mailing list will serve as a place to discuss detection techniques, report botnets, pass information to the relevant private groups and automatically notify the relevant ISPs of command and control sightings.
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,1933210,00.asp>
47. *March 02, Associated Press* — **Israeli software company faces U.S. probe.** Days after the Bush administration approved a ports deal involving the United Arab Emirates, the same review panel privately notified an Israeli software company it faced a rare, full-blown investigation over its plans to buy a smaller U.S. rival. The company was told U.S. officials feared the transaction could endanger some of the government's most sensitive computer systems. The objections by the Federal Bureau of Investigations and Pentagon were partly over specialized intrusion detection software known as "Snort," which guards some classified U.S. military and intelligence computers. Snort's author is a senior executive at Sourcefire Inc. based

in Columbia, MD, which would be sold to publicly traded Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. in Ramat Gan, Israel.

Source: http://www.forbes.com/entrepreneurs/feeds/ap/2006/03/02/ap25_64113.html

48. *March 02, Wired News* — **FCC probes caller-ID fakers.** Last week the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) opened an investigation into the caller-ID spoofing sites — services that began popping up late 2004, and have since become a useful tool for private investigators, pranksters and more than a few fraud artists. A seven-page demand from the FCC's enforcement bureau sent to one such service, called TeleSpoof, says the commission is investigating whether the site is violating the federal Communications Act by failing to send accurate "originating calling party telephone number information" on interstate calls. A copy was also sent to VoIP service provider NuFone. The FCC is demanding business records from both companies, as well as the name of every customer that has used TeleSpoof, the date they used it and the number of phone calls they made.

Source: <http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0.70320-0.html?tw=rss.technology>

49. *March 01, ZDNet (UK)* — **China creates own Internet domains.** China has created three of its own top-level domains that will use the domain names .cn, .com and .net, in Chinese. The domain names were launched Wednesday, March 1, by the Chinese Ministry of Information Industry. The creation of Chinese character domain names has led to speculation that China could break away from the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers completely, and undermine the global unity of the Domain Name System, the network of servers that resolves domain name requests. Internet experts are concerned that this move will see China administrating its top-level domains with its own separate root servers, which could cause a split in the Internet.

Source: http://news.zdnet.com/2100-9588_22-6044629.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US-CERT is aware of publicly available exploit code for a vulnerability in Apple Safari Browser. The Apple Safari browser will automatically open "safe" file types, such as pictures, movies, and archive files. A system may be compromised if a user accesses an HTML document that references a specially crafted archive file. Successful exploitation may allow a remote, unauthenticated attacker to execute arbitrary commands with the privileges of the user.

More information can be found in the following US-CERT Vulnerability Note:

VU#999708 – Apple Safari may automatically execute arbitrary shell commands:

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/999708>

Although there is limited information on how to fully defend against this exploit, US-CERT recommends the following mitigation:

* Disable the option "Open 'safe' files after downloading," as specified in the Securing Your Web Browser document:

http://www.us-cert.gov/reading_room/securing_browser/#sgeneral

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 25 (smtp), 445 (microsoft-ds), 32459 (---), 139 (netbios-ssn), 6999 (iata-normalpri), 32774 (sometimes-rpc11), 80 (www), 41170 (---) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
----------------------------	--

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[[Return to top](#)]

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

50. *March 04, Associated Press* — Iran native charged with attempted murder at UNC. A recent University of North Carolina (UNC) graduate was charged with nine counts of attempted murder Saturday, March 4, a day after authorities say he drove through a popular campus gathering spot in an attempt to avenge Muslim deaths. Derek Poarch, chief of the university police department, confirmed Saturday that Mohammed Reza Taheri-azar, a 22-year-old Iran native, told investigators he wanted to "avenge the deaths or murders of Muslims around the world." Poarch would not provide any other details on the motive. Taheri-azar also is charged with nine counts of assault. No one was seriously hurt in the incident just before noon Friday at The Pit, a sunken, brick-paved area surrounded by two libraries, a dining hall and the student union near the center of campus. Five students and a visiting scholar were treated at and released from hospitals, the university said in a statement. Three other people declined treatment, police said. Taheri-azar is being held on a \$5.5 million bond. Taheri-azar graduated from the university in December after studying psychology and philosophy. Investigators believe he has spent most of his life in the United States, Poarch said.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/03/04/unc.crash.ap/index.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

General Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

[DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open–source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:

Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983–3644.

Subscription and Distribution Information:

Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983–3644 for more information.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non–commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.